

newspapers and our other political subdivisions throughout the state. I do not think it is a good policy to implement even though it is being done for the guise of just Lancaster County. It is a move in the wrong direction and so I would urge you to oppose it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I believe we have fought this battle for a couple of years and if my memory serves me correct, one time when we were fighting this battle I called over to the county and asked them, could people call in and request information. Those people who are handicapped and those people who work during the day who aren't aware of what is going on and when they get home at night they read the paper and they want to find out some information because the story then was they could call in and get the information. They told me that, no, they didn't have the personnel to handle that many phone calls. Why, they would have to add phones, have to add people, they couldn't handle all of it by phone. So, as I say, we fought this battle before and I am going to have to stand up here and oppose Senator Landis as much as I dislike to do so and why don't they want to give this information? It isn't the ten to twelve thousand dollars they are going to save. I think it is the public's right to know and I think it is wrong to start this. So, therefore, I ask you to be very careful and be very aware of what you are voting on pertaining to LB 547.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one brief comment in favor of the bill and ask you to consider carefully a difference, what I think is a real difference between Lancaster County and outstate. Outstate I support these requirements. You need them. But in Lincoln we have two newspapers, a morning and an evening newspaper. Each newspaper has a reporter on the beat at the county. Each newspaper reports each county meeting. So the printing of those proceedings verbatim is not necessary because both of our newspapers cover them closely. The same with claims, the newspapers are right on top of these people day in and day out. They have somebody assigned there. That is different from outstate where there are not newspapers in every county seat and where you need this requirement.